

What is claimed is :

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*SUB*  
~~1) Software means for use on a computer for restricting other software to be use on~~  
said computer only, said computer comprises a software means for providing  
encrypted identity of its user to a remote computer, for a secure operation on a user's  
account which being under the control of said remote computer, comprising :

software means for ascertaining said software means for providing being  
present on said computer ;

software means for inhibiting use of said other software on said computer if  
said software means for providing is not present on said computer.

2) Software means as claimed in claim 1, wherein further comprising software means  
for determining data integrity of said software means for providing and if the  
determination is unfavourable, said means for providing is regarded as not present.

3) Software means as claimed in claim 1, wherein further comprising software means  
for authenticating said computer, comprises a stored information of configuration of  
said computer and means for determining configuration of said computer and means  
for comparing the determined result with said stored information, and if said software  
means for providing is not present on said computer and the comparison result is  
unfavourable, said software means for inhibiting will inhibit the use of said other  
software on said computer.

4) Software means as claimed in claim 3, wherein said configuration of said computer  
being the hardware configuration thereof.

5) Software means as claimed in claim 3, wherein said configuration of said computer  
~~being the software configuration thereof.~~

~~6) Software means as claimed in claim 3, wherein further comprising a method,~~  
comprises the steps of :

receiving an encrypted command from said remote computer ;  
authenticating said encrypted command ;  
determining the hardware or software or both configuration of said computer;  
storing the determinated configuration if the authentication result of said  
authenticating step is favourable ;  
thereafter, determining at least a part of the configuration of a computer  
onwhich said software means runs ;  
comparing said at least a part of configuration determined with the  
corresponding part in said stored configuration ;  
causing the use of said software be inhibited if the comparison result is not  
favourable.

7) Software means as claimed in claim 6, wherein said encryted command is being  
entered into said computer by the computer user who receives it from said remote  
~~computer through telephone line.~~

8) Software means as claimed in claim 6, wherein said remote computer provides said  
encrypted command if the user possesses an account which is valid.

~~9) Software means as claimed in claim 1, wherein each one of said other software  
means comprises an information for indicating it being a software supplied by said  
remote computer stored at a first predetermined location therein and an identity of its  
rightful user at a second predetermined location therein and an encrypted identity of its  
rightful user at a respective location therein and each of said other software will fail to  
operate if said information therein being altered or said identity and said encrypted  
identity therein being inconsistent.~~

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~~10) Software means as claimed in claim 9, wherein said software means for inhibiting~~  
also comprises said information at a first predetermined location and said identity of its  
rightful user at a second predetermined location therein and said encrypted identity of  
its rightful user at a respective location therein and said means for inhibiting will inhibit  
use of said other software on said computer if said information therein being altered or  
said identity and said encrypted identity therein being inconsistent.

11) Software means as claimed in claim 9, wherein said software means for inhibiting  
comprises an encrypted identity of its rightful user therein and wherein if one of said  
other software stored in said computer has a user identity not consistent to said  
encrypted identity in said means for inhibiting, said software means for inhibiting will  
inhibit use of at least one of said other software including said one of said other  
software.

12) Software means for use on a computer for restricting other software to be use on  
said computer only, said computer comprises a software means for providing  
encrypted identity of its user to a remote computer, for a secure operation on a user's  
account which being under the control of said remote computer, comprising :

said software means for providing ;

software means for enabling use of said other software on said computer ;

Wherein said software means for providing and said software means for enabling are  
contained in a single software so as for preventing said software means for enabling  
~~from being copied individually.~~

~~13) Software means as claimed in claim 12, wherein each one of said other software~~  
means comprises an information for indicating it being a software supplied by said  
remote computer stored at a first predetermined location therein and an identity of its  
rightful user at a second predetermined location therein and an encrypted identity of its  
rightful user at a respective location therein and each of said other software will fail to  
operate if said information therein being altered or said identity and said encrypted  
identity therein being inconsistent.

14) Software means as claimed in claim 12, wherein said software means for inhibiting  
also comprises said information at a first predetermined location and said identity of its  
rightful user at a second predetermined location therein and said encrypted identity of  
its rightful user at a respective location therein and said means for enabling will not  
operate if said information therein being altered or said identity and said encrypted  
identity therein being inconsistent.

15) Software means as claimed in claim 12, wherein said software means for inhibiting  
comprises an encrypted identity of its rightful user therein and wherein if one of said  
other software stored in said computer has a user identity not consistent to said  
encrypted identity in said means for inhibiting, said software means for enabling will  
not enable use of at least one of said other software including said one of said other  
software.

16) Software means as claimed in claim 12, wherein further comprising software  
means for authenticating said computer, comprises a stored configuration information  
of said computer and means for determining configuration of said computer and means  
for comparing the determined result with said stored information, and if the  
comparison result is unfavourable, said software means for enabling will not enable the  
~~use of said other software on said computer.~~

~~17) Software means for use on a computer for restricting other software to be use on~~  
said computer only, said computer comprises a software means for providing  
encrypted identity of its user to a remote computer, for a secure operation on a user's  
account which being under the control of said remote computer, comprising :

software means for providing encrypted commands for causing said other  
software to operate or not to operate on said computer ;

wherein a same encryption algorithm is being used in said software means for  
providing encrypted identity and said software means for providing encrypted  
commands.

18) Software means as claimed in claim 17, wherein further comprising software  
means for authenticating said computer, comprises a stored configuration information  
of said computer and means for determining configuration of said computer and means  
for comparing the determined result with said stored information, and if the  
comparison result is unfavourable, said software means for providing encrypted  
commands will not provide commands to said other software so as for causing said  
other software not to operate on said computer.

19) Software means as claimed in claim 17, wherein each one of said other software  
means comprises an information for indicating it being a software supplied by said  
remote computer stored at a first predetermined location therein and an identity of its  
rightful user at a second predetermined location therein and an encrypted identity of its  
rightful user at a respective location therein and each of said other software will fail to  
operate if said information therein being altered or said identity and said encrypted  
identity therein being inconsistent.

~~20) Software means as claimed in claim 17, wherein said software means for inhibiting~~  
also comprises said information at a first predetermined location and said identity of its  
rightful user at a second predetermined location therein and said encrypted identity of  
its rightful user at a respective location therein and said means for providing will cause  
said other software not to operate on said computer if said information therein being  
altered or said identity and said encrypted identity therein being inconsistent.

21) Software means as claimed in claim 17, wherein said software means for inhibiting  
comprises an encrypted identity of its rightful user therein and wherein if one of said  
other software stored in said computer has a user identity not consistent to said  
encrypted identity in said means for inhibiting, said software means for providing will  
cause at least one of said other software not to operate on said computer, including  
~~said one of said other software.~~